



Volume 3, Issue 3

# Ouranophantor

March 2020

*A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church*



# St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

[www.stbasilchicago.org](http://www.stbasilchicago.org)



Church Office:

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: [Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com)

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

## Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy  
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.  
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, March 1

- + Stewardship Appreciation Sunday — Luncheon hosted by the Stewardship Ministry in Philoptochos Hall, immediately following Divine Liturgy

### Monday, March 2

- + Great Compline at 6:00 p.m. followed by potluck dinner in Philoptochos Hall

### Wednesday, March 4

- + Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. followed by Lenten Lecture: Authentic Prayer

### Saturday, March 14

- + Feed My Starving Children — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Feed My Starving Children Packing Site, 740 Wiley Farm Ct., Schaumburg, IL

### Wednesday, March 18

- + Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. followed by Lenten Lecture: Orthodoxy in Prisons

### Wednesday, April 1

- + Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. followed by Lenten Lecture: Icons of Holy Week

## We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

## Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>



# Sacraments and Blessings

## 40-Day Blessings:



## Baptisms:



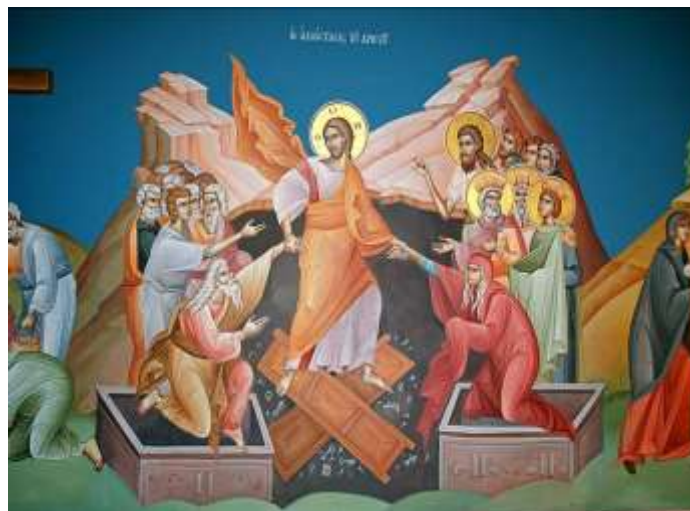
## Chrismations:



## Weddings:



## Funerals:



## Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am not a fan of the “fasting police.” I do not care for the practice of judging our brothers and sisters for how they keep the fast. Never mind that it runs contrary to the Epistle of Judgment Sunday.

*“Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls.*

*And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.” St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans*

But it also invalidates one’s fast. St. Basil states, *“You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother.”*

Fasting is not a mere matter of diet. It is moral as well as physical. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it means *“abstinence not only from food but from sins.”* “The fast”, he insists, *“should be kept not by the mouth alone but also by the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands and all the members of the body: the eye must abstain from impure sights, the ear from malicious gossip, the hands from acts of injustice.”*



This is a holy fast. And it is of great value. Fasting accomplishes two great feats, and both are critical during the Great and Holy Fast.

1) It sharpens the mind. One need only think of Thanksgiving afternoon to understand what gorging on food will do to one’s senses. We become dull, sluggish, when not outright sleepy, as the body tries to digest the great feast we consumed. Could you imagine playing a game of basketball or running a marathon immediately after? Impossible. What about writing a substantive essay? Again, most difficult.

Boxers, traditionally, will fast before a match. The idea is that the little bit of hunger will make the brain synapses fire faster, which allows for more rapid thought. When dodging punches, one would want to have the fastest reflexes possible. It is the same in our spiritual lives, especially during Great and Holy Lent. We seek to pray long hours and increase our prayer rules as we prepare for Pascha. We want to be able to focus on our prayers, and we also want to be able to be watchful of the “jabs” of the enemy, who desires to spoil our fast with hatred and irritability.





2) The fast teaches self-control. This is the heart of what St. John Chrysostom means and also why it is the first vice tackled by St. John Climacus in *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. He names it the gateway to the passions. *"The great attraction of **gluttony** is not necessarily concerned with large quantities of food, but in the temptation to have just a 'little taste.'* But if the wish for a taste succeeds in making you a slave to gluttony, the Evil One can then give you up utterly to destruction."

Therefore, almost all sins enter through this door: wrath, sloth, lust, pride, envy, vanity. If we cannot master our bellies, we are doomed to worse. We must learn to say no, to master our bodies. St. John Climacus says that *"the prince of demons is the fallen Lucifer, and gluttony is the prince of the passions."* Therefore it can be said that *"the stomach is the cause of all human disaster .... Let us then ask of this archfoe: Who is your mother? Who are Your Children?"...And gluttony ... furiously raving at us, answers: .... Why do you try to separate yourself from me? I am bound to you by nature. I gain entry through the very nature of food [i.e., food is by nature pleasant to the taste and desirable]. The cause of my insatiability is habit. The foundation of my passion is repeated habit, insensitivity of the soul and forgetfulness of death .... Now learn the names of my first-born and best loved children: 1. fornication; 2. hard-heartedness; 3. drowsiness."* (**The Ladder**)



To acquire virtue, it is necessary to first rid ourselves of the passions. Fasting is the all-important first step and cannot be neglected.

That being said, fasting must be approached in a healthy manner with the aid of a spiritual father. If certain health concerns are present, such as diabetes, age, or other challenges, then fasting must be tempered. This is because fasting is a tool, not the goal. This is why "fasting police" irk me. We do not know the journey of any individual and what his or her spiritual father directed. Because of this, we must always assume that the individual is following the guidance of his or her priest unless that person asks advice.

This journey is not possible on willpower alone. We must pray for strength and our Savior's aid in conquering the fast. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting are the tent poles of Great Lent. As we prepare for Pascha, we try to dedicate as much time as possible to all three, The fast is not merely about giving "something" up, but about sharpening our spiritual selves into better Christians. Great Lent affords us many opportunities to do this, and I pray that we all avail ourselves of them to our spiritual benefit.

Ευλογημένη Σαρακοστή και καλή μετάνοια.  
Blessed 40 Days and Good Repentance.

+ Fr. Dimitry

I remain your servant in Christ,  
Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

## Parish Council Update

By Kalliope Dimitrakopoulos

*I said to the almond tree "Speak to me of God," and the almond tree blossomed.  
-Nikos Kazantzakis, Report to Greco*

Dear St. Basil Parishioners,

Like the almond tree, the signs of spring are everywhere.

I know this to be true because on February 2, St. Basil held its annual Super Bowl Bash at the Billy Goat Tavern. It was another successful and very fun event as we cheered on midwestern favorites, the Kansas City Chiefs, who won against the 49ers 31-20.

Another sure sign of spring was the Apokreatiko Glendi, held in St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall on February 22. Parishioners were entertained by the band Rythmos as they enjoyed a wonderful dinner.

Did you grill your meats on Tsiknopempti? Last chance to say farewell to meat before Lent starts was on February 23, also known as meatfare Sunday.

And finally Great Lent, which is the quintessential sign that spring and Easter are coming, begins on March 2. As we enter this period of fasting and prayer, you may find it beneficial to follow along with St. Basil's Lenten Lecture Series. The series begins on March 4 with Father Dimitri speaking about Authentic Prayer, followed by Father Paul Martin on March 18, speaking about Orthodoxy in Prisons. Finally, on April 1, Mrs. Aphrodite Peponis speaks on the icons of Holy Week.

I would like to wish all of you a happy spring full of peace and prayer as we anxiously await the Resurrection of our Lord.

Sincerely,  
Kalliope Dimitrakopoulos  
Parish Council Member

## Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

Hello Everyone!

Please make save the dates for the following Philoptochos events. Don't miss out.

- + **Sunday, March 8: Load Up For Lent** — A variety of homemade Lenten food items will be available for purchase after church
- + **Tuesday, March 10: Philoptochos Meeting at 7 p.m.**
- + **Sunday, March 22: Greek Independence Day Celebration** — All coffee hour proceeds will be collected for aid to Greece and Cyprus.
- + **Saturday, April 11: Preparation for Palm Sunday Luncheon** — Join us and learn to make our fabulous meal.
- + **Sunday, April 12: Palm Sunday Luncheon** — in Philoptochos Hall following Divine Liturgy
- + **Sunday, April 26: Loukoumades Sunday** — in Philoptochos Hall following Divine Liturgy

Καλή Σαρακοστή! Happy Lent!  
Nichole Kourvas Drimonas  
St. Basil Philoptochos President



## Stewardship Update

By Maria-Kanella Koper



Registration for 2020 has begun. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/srteawardship/> or pick up a pamphlet at the pangari. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

### Stewardship Appreciation Sunday on March 1, 2020

The stewardship ministry will prepare a cheese-fare-friendly meal for you to enjoy with your fellow parishioners. We love and appreciate you all!

#### 2020 Snapshot (as of February 20, 2020)

Stewards	Pledged	Collected
91	\$144,955	\$41,889

#### 2019 Snapshot (as of February 20, 2020)

Stewards	Pledged	Collected
180	\$223,980.52	\$222,041.43

2019 Stewardship final collection due date was Sunday March 1.

Final 2019 numbers will be reported out on the next issue.

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you! Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

**Have you become a steward of St. Basil's?** Visit our website at [www.stbasilchicago.org](http://www.stbasilchicago.org) and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)*

## Yiayia's Kouzina Update

By Cynthia Schroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina will be baking sesame koulouria for Easter on Saturday February 29 from 9:30 till 1:30. Please come and join us.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 708-769-4084 (mobile) or email me @ [cschroe77@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cschroe77@sbcglobal.net)

Cindy



# Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confession, offer selected prayers from the following Confessional Prayers, Psalm 51, or the following prayer of repentance:

## Prayer of Repentance

O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgressions and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of Your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

*Now, without justification or self-pity, make a prayerful examination of your conscience regarding all things. As a help, reflect on your life in the light of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Take pencil and paper and specify your sins so that, at the time of the sacrament, you will be able to make a thorough confession from the list, without confusion or lapse of memory,*

## The Ten Commandments

**I am the Lord your God, and you shall have no other gods before me.**

Has God been the source, center, and hope of my life? Have I put myself, others, or things before God? Have I failed to trust in God's existence, love, and mercy? Have I failed to pray to God, to worship Him, and to thank Him for His blessings? Have I tried to serve God and keep His commandments faithfully? Have I murmured or complained against God in adversity? Have I praised and glorified God through my words and deeds?

**You shall not make for yourself a graven image in order to worship it.**

Have I valued anyone or anything above God? Have I given to anyone or anything the love, honor, and worship that belongs to God alone? Have I made an idol of any person, idea, occupation, or thing?

**You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

Have I blasphemed God's holy name in any way? Have I sworn a false oath? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise? Have I entered into an agreement, promise, or contract against God's law? Have I cursed or used foul language?

**Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**

Have I worshiped regularly on Sundays and major feast days and have I helped others to do the same? Have I worked unnecessarily on Sundays or major feast days or caused others to do so? Have I spent the Lord's Day in a wholesome and edifying ways?

**Honor your father and mother.**

Have I loved and respected my parents as I should? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I disobeyed them, deceived them or caused them pain by my words or deeds? Have I treated all my family members with patience and love?

**Thou shall not kill.**

Have I caused the harm, injury, or death of anyone? Have I wished my own or anyone's harm or death? Have I been cruel to animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily?

**You shall not commit adultery.**

Have I committed any immoral acts alone or with others? Have I caused others to commit immoral acts? Have I committed immoral acts in my heart?

**You shall not steal.**

Have I taken anything that was not mine from anyone or from anywhere? Have I cheated anyone? Have I caused others to steal or cheat? Have I tried to find the owners of lost things I have found? Have I damaged or destroyed anything that belonged to another? Have I defrauded anyone of rightful wages? Have I paid my debts? Have I given to the poor and to philanthropic causes in proportion to my means?

**You shall not bear false witness.**

Have I given false testimony against anyone? Have I spoken evil, told lies, or spread rumors about anyone? Have I disclosed to anyone the sins and faults of another? Have I made careless statements or done anything else to harm the name and reputation of another? Have I engaged in idle gossip?

**You shall not covet.**

Have I looked with envy, jealousy, or hatred toward the possessions, talents, or achievements of others? Have I desired the downfall or loss of others out of evil intent that I might benefit? Have I grieved that God has bestowed greater blessings on others than on me?



# Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

## The Beatitudes

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Have I truly recognized my complete dependence on God? Have I been proud, arrogant, and self-righteous in my ways? Have I been selfish, possessive, and self-seeking? Have I sought after status, power, and wealth?

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

Have I endured difficulties and afflictions with faith and patience? Have I felt sadness for the sufferings of the poor, the hungry, and addicted; the sick, the lonely, and the sinful of the world? Have I truly been sorrowful for my sins and faults?

**Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

Have I tried to serve or rather to dominate others at home, school, work, office, Church, and elsewhere? Have I nursed against anyone? Have I been resentful, bitter, unforgiving, or insulting and abusive to others? Have I loved my enemies?

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**

Have I truly yearned for God's will to be done in all things? Have I worked for justice in my family, society, and the world in ways within my reach? Have I tried to cultivate a righteous life through prayer, fasting, worship, receiving Holy Communion, and deeds of love toward others?

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**

Have I shown compassion and help toward the poor, hungry, lonely, and needy around me? Have I tried to understand and forgive others? Have I been indifferent, judgmental, or legalistic?

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

Have I loved goodness, purity, and holiness? Have I succumbed to evil motives and intentions? Have I given way to impure thoughts, words, or deeds? Have I been guilty of bias and prejudice? Have I been hypocritical, pretentious, or self-indulgent to sinful passions?

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

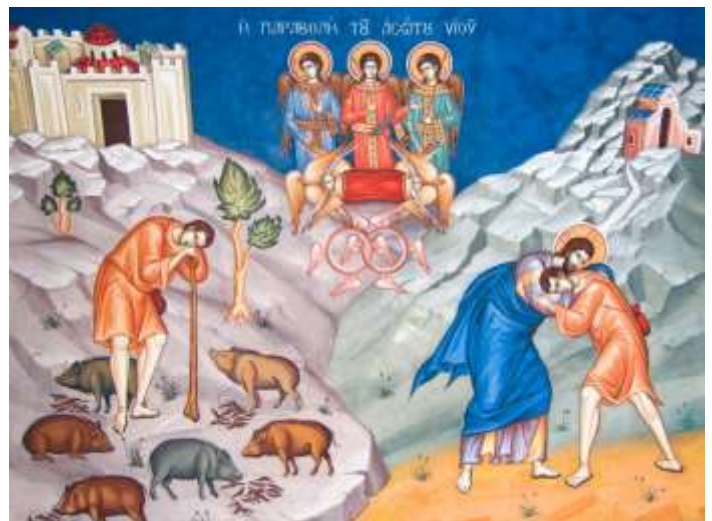
Do I have God's peace in my heart? Have I been unfairly angry, aggressive, or impatient? Have I worked for peace at home, work, Church, and in society? Have I been irritable, polemical, or divisive?

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Have I complained when persecuted for God's sake? Have I prayed for my persecutors? Have I failed to defend anyone in the truth for fear of humiliation or persecution? Have I had the courage to stand up for what is right despite criticism, ridicule, or persecution?

**Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you on my account; rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.**

Is the joy of Christ in my heart even in trying moments? Have I been pessimistic, despondent, or despairing? Have I truly delighted in the promise of God's treasures in heaven?



# Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

Sunday School students have been busy preparing for the Oratorical Festival which will take place on March 15, 2020.

- + Grades K-2 have been busy preparing an art project and reciting The Lord's Prayer
- + Grades 4-7 have been working on their presentations

Grades K-2 met with Fr. Dimitri for a discussion about the Holy Prosforo (Holy Bread). Fr. Dimitri discussed the significance of the words and symbols displayed on the Holy Prosforo. Students enjoyed observing Fr. Dimitri's demonstration of the Blessing of the Prosforo on the altar.



**Please mark your calendars for these important dates:**

**March 1:** Students will partake in the sacrament of Holy Confession. Teachers will review the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as a preparation to this holy sacrament.

**March 4:** Sunday School teachers and students will attend and host a Lenten potluck immediately following the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evening. Sunday school students and families are asked to attend.

**March 8:** March 8 is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Please be sure to bring an icon from home so students can hold their holy icon as they process around the church.

**March 27:** Sunday School students are asked to participate in the Akathist service on Friday evening.

As we enter the season of Great Lent, I encourage families to participate in the events above so we can share in this time of fasting and prayer. Sunday School families please join us and be a part of these great events.

**Please review the resources below about Confession and Great Lent:**

**Be the Bee:** A four-minute video produced by the Department of Youth and Young Ministries—excellent for children of all ages; available on YouTube. [Be the Bee #36 | Confession](#)

**Preparation for Holy Confession:** This guide from the Department of Religious Education prepares us for Confession by examining the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. It is most applicable to the older children and adults. <https://www.goarch.org/-/preparation-for-holy-confession>.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is a great resource to refer to during Great Lent. <https://www.goarch.org/lent>

## Prison Ministry

By Pat & Steve Cole

### Prison Ministry to Sponsor Lenten Lecture on Orthodoxy in Prisons

For the last 14 years, Fr. Paul Martin, Presiding Priest of Annunciation and St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church in New Buffalo, Michigan, has ministered to inmates at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Indiana. What's unique about his chaplaincy is that the men he serves are Orthodox Christians or catechumens preparing to be baptized. The group at the prison has adopted the name St. Moses the Ethiopian.

Members of the St. Basil Prison Ministry became familiar with the St. Moses community and Fr. Paul after an inmate correspondent invited them to attend their Pascha service at Indiana State Prison last May. A few priests from surrounding Orthodox parishes in Michigan and Indiana rotate serving liturgy at the prison on Saturday mornings, and all are in touch with the prisoners through in-person visitation as well as correspondence.

On March 18, 2020, as part of St. Basil Church's Lenten lecture series, Fr. Paul will discuss the joys and challenges of ministering to incarcerated men, based upon his experiences with the St. Moses community. Fr. Paul will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. that evening and will deliver his lecture afterwards. A lenten meal will be provided by the Prison Ministry.



Do you work in the city of Chicago?

Would you like to attend Weekday Liturgies but cannot because of work? Join us at St. Basil.

#### March—April

**Fridays during the first five weeks of Great Lent:** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:30 a.m.

Patronal Feasts for the Chicago parishes will not be celebrated at St. Basil.

Please check the [St. Basil website calendar](#) for updates to above schedule. Liturgies are live-streamed on the [St. Basil Facebook Page](#).



# Feed My Starving Children Ministry

By Stella Kapetan



## Sixth Annual Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Meal-Packing Event

Join us as we pack meals specially formulated for malnourished children. FMSC sends these meals to their partners in impoverished countries around the world to be used in orphanages, schools, clinics, and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty. They are also given to starving mothers so they can produce enough breast milk to feed their babies.

FMSC is a Christian non-profit that has provided 2.3 billion meals to more than 70 countries since 1987.

Each volunteer packs about 216 meals at a packing event. This means the St. Basil Church family has packed a total of 34,000 meals at our last five events. These meals were sent to Ethiopia, Tanzania, eSwatini, Cambodia, Philippines, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, Malawi, and Dominican Republic. Last year alone, we packed enough meals to feed 37 children for one year.

The World Health Organization reports that 6,000 children die every day from hunger-related causes. But every volunteer saves children from the agony of starving to death and gives them the opportunity to play, go to school, and dare to dream of a future.

This is a fun, easy event your whole family will enjoy. Minimum age is only five. (Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Sit-down jobs are available.

Saturday, March 14 —Meet at Feed My Starving Children

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

740 Wiley Farm Ct., Schaumburg, IL

RSVP by Wednesday, March 11, to the church office at [stbasilchicago@comcast.net](mailto:stbasilchicago@comcast.net) or 312-243-3738. Also please contact the office if you have questions.



## Coffee Hour Ministry

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to know one another better.

**We are looking for 2020 volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in hosting one of our pot-luck luncheons with a team of other parishioners. We have a few open dates left to fill.**

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.



<b>Sunday, March 1</b>	<b>Stewardship Appreciation Sunday — Luncheon Hosted by Stewardship Ministry</b>
<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	<b>Coffee Hour: Philoptochos</b>
<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Ministry: Douglas Family</b>
<b>Sunday, March 22</b>	<b>Coffee Hour: Philoptochos</b>
<b>Sunday, March 29</b>	<b>Coffee Hour: Philoptochos</b>

## Metropolis of Chicago Bronze Cross Award

### Themis Fabiatos Receives Bronze Cross Service Award

St. Basil Church is proud to announce that we have selected Themis Fabiatos to receive the first-ever Metropolis of Chicago Bronze Cross award for exceptional service and leadership in our parish.

Mr. Fabiatos has devoted his life to supporting St. Basil Church. He was born on the island of Kefalonia, the son of a priest. He came to the U.S. in 1956 and settled in Chicago, where he met and married his wife, Angeline (Kiki). His life-long dedication to St. Basil Church helped the parish survive hard times over the years, including two fires. He has been an effective fundraiser, a generous donor, and an enthusiastic advocate for the church. He served as parish council president from 1989 to 1997 and continued on the council until 2003. Trained as a psaltis, Mr. Fabiatos was instrumental in rejuvenating the St. Basil choir in the early 1970s. He has chanted at liturgies and sacraments for 50 years and still does so today. Following the 2013 fire at the church, he took it upon himself to replace our icon of St. Gerasimos and a relic of the saint's slipper, both made and consecrated in Greece. Each year he promotes Hellenic culture by organizing the St. Basil contingent at the Greek parade. Kiki Fabiatos has also been a force in the church for many years. She staffed the office, taught Sunday School, was a member of Philoptochos, and still sings in the choir.

Thank you, Mr. Fabiatos, for all you have done for St. Basil Church over the years. Your leadership has helped our church not only to survive, but to thrive. You are truly a blessing in our lives.

The Metropolis of Chicago will host the inaugural servant leadership awards banquet on Friday, May 1, 2020, at the Cottillion Banquets in Palatine, Illinois, to honor the recipients. During the event, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael will bestow the Metropolis Cross and other special honors on these exemplary servant leaders in recognition of their efforts.





## Someone You Should Know

Anesti Dhima

Anesti Dhima is new to the parish council at St. Basil, but he is not new to the parish itself. He discovered St. Basil Church in 2014 when he moved to the West Town area with his wife, Emily. Like so many of our parishioners, he was drawn in by the welcoming nature of the congregation. He was married at St. Spyridon in Palos Heights, and his two daughters, ages three and one, were baptized at St. Basil. The constancy of the Greek Orthodox faith is important to him. “Our faith is based on the verbatim words of the Bible, and our source of truth remains stable,” he notes. “We don’t change our beliefs to suit the times.”

The Orthodox faith runs deep in his family. He was born in an ethnically Greek region of southern Albania. “As ethnic Greeks living in a Communist country, we were not free to practice our religion,” he recalls. “But my parents clung to their faith. I was born during Holy Week, so they named me Anesti in honor of the Resurrection.” When Anesti was three years old, the family fled to Epirus, Greece, and eventually emigrated to the United States when he was six, reuniting with other family members who had settled in Elmwood Park decades earlier.

He hopes to bring a youthful perspective to the council, pointing to new technologies such as our live video feed of Sunday liturgy and our social media presence as examples of forward-thinking initiatives. At the same time, he acknowledges the importance of having older, more seasoned parishioners on the council because they bring a historical perspective. They remember the fires, the rebuilding, and the difficult times when the council members reached into their pockets to pay the monthly electric bill. “We should take the best of the old and the new on the council,” he says. Anesti believes that the mission of the church is to bring more people into the religion, and we accomplish that by bringing Christ into people’s lives. “The best way to honor our faith is to do good for others,” he says. He has put this belief into practice by mentoring a young boy through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. He has been with his “little brother” Davontae for seven years. He helps him with homework and school projects, he takes him to sporting events, and sometimes they just hang out and play ball together. Over the years he has formed a relationship not only with Davontae, but with his mother. “I want to be a role model to a young man who does not have a father figure in his life to guide him.”

Professionally, Anesti is in the grocery industry. He currently does business development for InstaCart, nurturing new partnerships with major food retailers. He and his family live in the Lakeview area, and he devotes his free time to family activities.



## St. Basil — Super Bash

February 2, 2020

**Thank you to The Billy Goat Tavern and the Sianis Family for hosting the Super Bash on Super Bowl Sunday.**









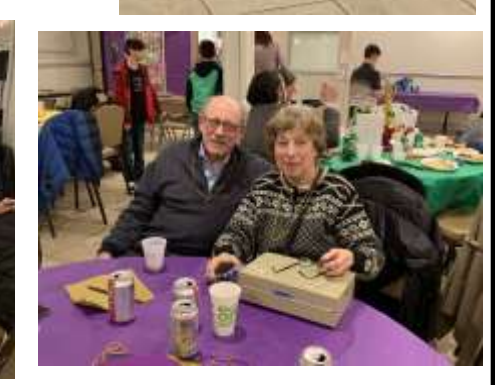
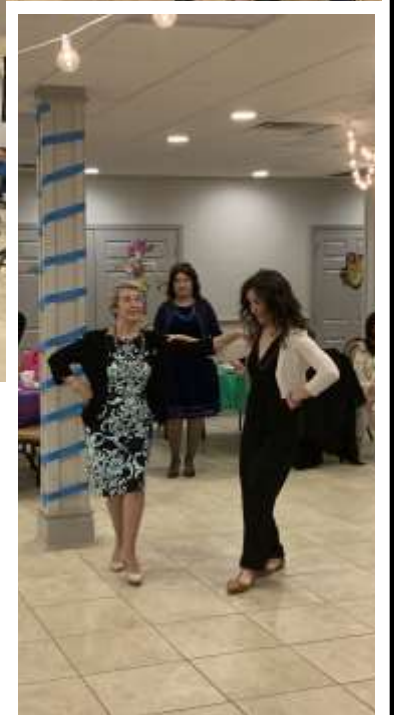
## St. Basil — Apokreatiko Glendi

February 22, 2020

**Thank you to Gus and Eleni Sarolas for hosting a wonderful event!**









# Loukoumades Sunday

January 26, 2019





# Go Red Sunday

February 23, 2019

American Heart Association



St. Basil Philoptochos hosted Go Red Sunday to help raise awareness about heart disease, the number-one killer of women and men in America. The Philoptochos served heart-healthy food during coffee hour. Who says healthy food doesn't taste good?

Informative materials on a variety of topics including how to improve cholesterol, the importance of being physically active, and healthful eating plans were available for parishioners to take home. It was a great opportunity for all of us to learn more about heart health.



# Lenten Lecture Series

## 2020

Lent affords all Orthodox Christians a time of reflection and spiritual strengthening with increased fasting, prayer and services as we move towards the Passion and glorious, saving Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Each Wednesday evening during Great and Holy Lent we will be offering edifying lectures at St. Basil. These Lectures will take place after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and meal provided by one of our many wonderful Ministries

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy begins at 6:00 p.m.      Dinner followed by presentation 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 4**

### Authentic Prayer

**Speaker:** Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias

**Sponsor:** Sunday School

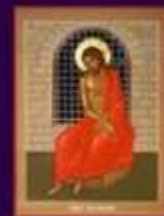


**Wednesday, March 18**

### Orthodoxy in Prisons

**Speaker:** Rev. Fr. Paul Martin

**Sponsor:** St. Basil Prison Ministry



**Wednesday, April 1**

### Icons of Holy Week

**Speaker:** Mrs. Aphrodite Peponis

**Sponsor:** St. Basil Choir



## Donations for Great Lent and Paschal Season 2020

### GREAT LENT:

Flowers for Icon of the Panagia on Fridays

- + 1st Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - Donated
- + 2nd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75
- + 3rd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75
- + 4th Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - \$75
- + Akathist Hymn/Ακάθιστος Ύμνος - \$100

Flowers for Stavroproskiniseos (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) - \$300

Bottles or Cases of Nama Wine

Incense for Great Lent - \$250

Flowers for Icon of Palm Sunday - \$50

Palms & Daphne for Palm Sunday - \$750

Fish for Palm Sunday Luncheon - \$600



### HOLY WEEK:

Flowers for Icon of Nymphios - \$75

Extra Virgin Olive Oil for Holy Unction

Flour for Holy Unction

Seven Candles for Holy Unction - \$50

Flowers for Icon of Mystical Supper - \$75

Flowers for Icon of Crucifixion - \$75

Candles for the Holy Cross - \$50

12 Candles for the Twelve Holy Gospels - \$80

Stefani-Stavromenon (Flowered Wreath) Holy Thursday - \$150

White Sheet for Body of Christ - 1 queen flat needed

Flowers for Decorating the Epitafios - \$800

Epitafios Roses for the Faithful - \$900

Rose Water & Rose Petals Holy Friday - \$100

Rose Petals for Holy Saturday Morning - \$200

Clergy Resurrection/Anastasi Candle - \$250

Flowers for Icons of the Resurrection - \$75 each (2 needed)

### GREAT & HOLY PASCHA (4.19.20):

Paschal Easter Lilies for Anastasi - \$25 each (20 needed)

Eggs for Holy Pascha - \$300

Tulle & Ribbon for Paschal Eggs - \$100

Children's Paschal Easter Candy Hunt - \$350

Please complete the information below and return entire form to the St. Basil Church office;  
along with your payment.

**Kindly make checks payable to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.**

(Please print)

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_



### **March 1 –Forgiveness Sunday**



The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone**

O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

### **March 8 –Sunday of Orthodoxy**



For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow, the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy; that

is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

### **Apolytikion of Sun. of Orthodoxy -Second Tone**

O Christ our God, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of your own will you condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, "When You came to save the world, Your filled all things with joy, O Our Savior."

### **Kontakion of Sun. of Orthodoxy—Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

The indescribable word of God became defined when He became incarnate of You O Theotokos. He restored our soiled image to what it was of old by joining it to His divine beauty. We confess salvation, and recount it in word and deed.

### **March 15–Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas**



This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359. His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral

of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established

that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

#### **Apolytikion of Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas — Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of Monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved.

#### **Kontakion of Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas —Fourth Tone**

Holy and Divine instrument of wisdom, bright and harmonious trumpet of theology, with one voice, we praise you, O Gregory, preacher of God. Since your mind now stands before the First Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, that we may cry to You, "Hail Herald of Grace."

#### **March 22–Sunday of the Holy Cross**



With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

#### **Apolytikion of Sun. of the Holy Cross — First Tone**

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

#### **Kontakion of Sun. of the Holy Cross — Grave Tone**

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Paradise; \* it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross! \* The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; \* for You, O my Savior, \* did come and cry to those in hell: \* "Enter again into Paradise."

#### **March 25 –The Annunciation**



Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

#### **Apolytikion of Annunciation of the Theotokos — Fourth Tone**

Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

#### **Kontakion of Annunciation of the Theotokos — Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

## St. Basil — 2020 Stewards

<p><b>A</b>  Chris &amp; Georgia Alemis  Robert &amp; Emily Andreou  Anonymous  John &amp; Rebecca Antonoglu  Stella Antonoglu  Dr. Christos &amp; Tula Aravanis  Marina Arvanitis &amp; Ed Franklin</p> <p><b>B</b>  Gregory &amp; Maria Bairaktaris  Theodora Bairaktaris  Dr. Robert &amp; Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes  Tom &amp; Leslie Bezanes  Dorothy Bezemes  John &amp; Patoula Billiris  John &amp; Dr. Christine Bishof  Nick &amp; Angie Brinias</p> <p><b>C</b>  John &amp; Venus Campanelli  Chris Christides  Dean Christy  Maria Constantinides  Constance Cosmas  Stephan &amp; Patricia Patsis-Cole</p> <p><b>D</b>  Tim &amp; Jenel Damis  Anesti &amp; Emily Dhima  Gus Drugas</p> <p><b>E</b>  Sandra Efstathiou</p> <p><b>F</b>  Themis &amp; Angeline Fabiatos  Martin &amp; Elaine Fosse  Charles &amp; Rosemary Fountas  Nicholas &amp; Vicky Fountas  Zaharias &amp; Kalliopi Fountas  Tony &amp; Georgia Fragale  John Frangias  Themis Frangos  Tony &amp; Helene Frankos</p> <p><b>G</b>  Daniel &amp; Alexia Gould  Christina Gountanis  Melita Green  Kevin &amp; Kathryn Gulley</p>	<p><b>H</b>  Sophia Haritos  Arthur &amp; Angie Harris  William &amp; Catherine Hostetler</p> <p><b>K</b>  Stella Kapetan  Aris Kapsopoulos  Demetra Karas  George &amp; Karen Karas  Zarif &amp; Constance Karwandyar  Ralli Katsikas  Dr. Kenneth &amp; Arlene Kehl  Vana Kikos  Eleni Kontalonis  Ryan &amp; Maria Kanella Koper  John &amp; Joanne Koudounis  Phyllis Koumantos  Vivien Kouros  Frank Kuchuris</p> <p><b>L</b>  John &amp; Anna Lambros  Elias Loumakis</p> <p><b>M</b>  Dina Manasses  Eleni Manasses  Chris &amp; Zenaida Maniates  Dean &amp; Anastasia Maragos</p> <p><b>O</b>  Jeffrey &amp; Kalliope Osborne</p> <p><b>P</b>  James &amp; Bess Pabin  Demitra Panagopoulos  Dimos &amp; Angela Panousakis  Rhonda Panousakis  Marcie Papadakis  Lambros &amp; Mary Peroulas  Katina Phillips  Eleni Pontikes  John &amp; Carol Pontikes  John &amp; Loula Plesiotis  Nondas &amp; Angie Plesiotis</p>	<p><b>R</b>  Anthony &amp; Christina Rouches  +Demetra Rouches  Ken &amp; Helene Paspalas-Rubenstein  Sam &amp; Christine Rousakis</p> <p><b>S</b>  Josh &amp; Constance Sammartini  Irene Santos  Jayme Schenk  Harold &amp; Cindy Schroeder  Nicholas Senopoulos  Panagiotia Sianis  Paul &amp; Pamela Sianis  Tom &amp; Eleni Sianis  Grigorios &amp; Debra Skourletos  Joanna, Skourletos  Sam Souleles  Stavroula Spyropoulos  Brian &amp; Nicole Steinberg  Kathy Stratton</p> <p><b>T</b>  Gerasim &amp; Edith Tikoff  Dr. Richard &amp; Angela Tobias  Fr. Dimitri &amp; Presvytera Mary Tobias  Nick &amp; Kristen Triandafilou  George Tsagaris  MariaTsagaris  Anthony Tsenes  Sophia Tsilimigras</p> <p><b>V</b>  Catherine Valsamoulis</p> <p><b>W</b>  Kathy Walstrom</p> <p><b>Z</b>  Willaim &amp; Dorothy Zimbrakos</p>
--	---	--



# St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) Sunday School Student Confessions Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:15 am	<b>2</b> Clean Monday 6:00 pm	<b>3</b> Parish Council Super Tuesday (regional holiday) 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>4</b> 5:45 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7:00 pm Sunday School to Host Lenten Lecture	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri 6:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>7</b> 8:30 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday of Orthodoxy - procession with icons Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:15 am	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Philoptochos Meeting	<b>11</b> Fr. Dimitri speaking at Lenten Lecture in TN	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri 6:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>14</b> 11:30 am Feed my Starving Children
<b>15</b> Oratorical Festival Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:15 am	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>18</b> 5:45 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7:00 pm Prison Ministry to Host Lenten Lecture	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri 6:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Slavoproskineios Sunday Greek Independence Day procession Vespers 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy	<b>23</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation	<b>25</b> 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy of the Annunciation (Chicago) 5:45 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Sunday School Akathist Hymn 6:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>1</b> 5:45 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7:00 pm Choir to Host Lenten Lecture	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri 6:00 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00 pm The Akathist Hymn	<b>4</b>

## *St. Basil March Events*



**Koulouma Pot-Luck Dinner**  
**Following Great Compline (6:00 pm)**  
**Clean Monday, March 2, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**



**Saturday, March 23**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Feed My Starving Children Packing Site**  
**740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg, IL**



**St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church**  
733 South Ashland Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60607